GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1542
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
ANTHRAX PREVENTIVE VACCINE
A. VENKATESH NAIK;DALPAT SINGH PARASTE;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has developed a Anthrax preventive vaccine recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said vaccine is likely to come for sale in the market;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have claimed that it is ready to produce a recombinant anthrax vaccine, less toxic and more cost-effective than the ones currently available in the World in another six to nine months;

(e) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the Government had established a fast track clearance mechanism for all life-saving products like the anthrax vaccine; and

(g) if so, the details in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) : A team of scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Centre for Biochemical Technology, Delhi have jointly developed a candidate anthrax vaccine with the financial support of the Department of Biotechnology.

(c) : The candidate vaccine will undergo pre-clinical toxicology investigations as well as voluntary trials after obtaining appropriate clearances from different agencies, before it is made available for use.

(d) & (e) : The Department of Biotechnology has supported the programme to develop recombinant candidate vaccine for anthrax. This vaccine is based on expression of the protective gene in E . coli. Therefore, it is less toxic. It is likely to be cost effective. One of the industries has taken up the technology for further refining, scaling and commercialisation. It is expected that the development process along with regulatory procedures would be hastened to make the vaccine available in the shortest possible time.

(f) & (g) : An Advisory Committee has been set up in the Drugs Controller General of India`s Office to consider approvals/clearances for the recombinant vaccines and biologicals expeditiously. The Committee will evaluate and consider clearances of the vaccines and biologicals which are considered life saving drugs on fast track mechanism.